


SAFETY ALERT

Without immediate action at all levels, improper tire maintenance procedures will continue to result in damaged equipment, personal injury, and loss of life in the most extreme cases.

During recent visits throughout the Army, US Army Safety Center (USASC) personnel have noticed an increased number of Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Trucks (HEMTT) with improperly maintained multi-piece rimmed tires. Indicators of potentially dangerous maintenance procedures are incorrect tire pressure (too much or too little); improperly seated multi-piece tire rims (locking ring with a gap greater than 3/8 in. [9.5 mm]); and failure to use approved tire maintenance equipment (OSHA approved tire inflation cage, 10-foot extension air hose and air chuck/gauge with locking clips). A study of the past five years indicates that half of the accidents occurring during tire maintenance involved multi-piece rimmed tires.

Corrective actions are relatively simple. Obtain and comply with TACOM GPM 00-002 for HEMTT Drivers and TACOM GPM 00-003 for Tire Mechanics. Strict adherence to changed TM 9-2320-279-10 (w/change 5), TM 9-2320-279-20-1 (w/change 3), and TM 9-2610-200-14 is a must. Follow the procedures outlined in TM 9-2320-279-10 for using the tire inflation cage (NSN 4910-1 extension air hose (Part #  chuck/gauge (NSN 4910-01-386-4300)). Leaders must also ensure soldiers are properly trained and equipped to conduct maintenance on the equipment. Finally, understanding the correct procedure is not enough. Rigorous enforcement of the standards by all levels of the chain of command is the best means of preventing accidents.

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